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NOTIFICATION CONCERNING
SUBMISSION OR TRANSMITTAL
OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

(PCT Administrative Instructions, Section 411)

To:

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Date of mailing (day/month/year) 05 July 2000 (05.07.00)		
Applicant's or agent's file reference E-731	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION	
International application No. PCT/US98/12081	International filing date (day/month/year) 12 June 1998 (12.06.98)	
International publication date (day/month/year) 17 December 1998 (17.12.98)	Priority date (day/month/year) 13 June 1997 (13.06.97)	
Applicant PITNEY BOWES INC. et al		

1. The applicant is hereby notified of the date of receipt (except where the letters "NR" appear in the right-hand column) by the International Bureau of the priority document(s) relating to the earlier application(s) indicated below. Unless otherwise indicated by an asterisk appearing next to a date of receipt, or by the letters "NR", in the right-hand column, the priority document concerned was submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b).
2. This updates and replaces any previously issued notification concerning submission or transmittal of priority documents.
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Priority date	Priority application No.	Country or regional Office or PCT receiving Office	Date of receipt of priority document
13 June 1997 (13.06.97)	60/049,518	US	19 June 2000 (19.06.00)

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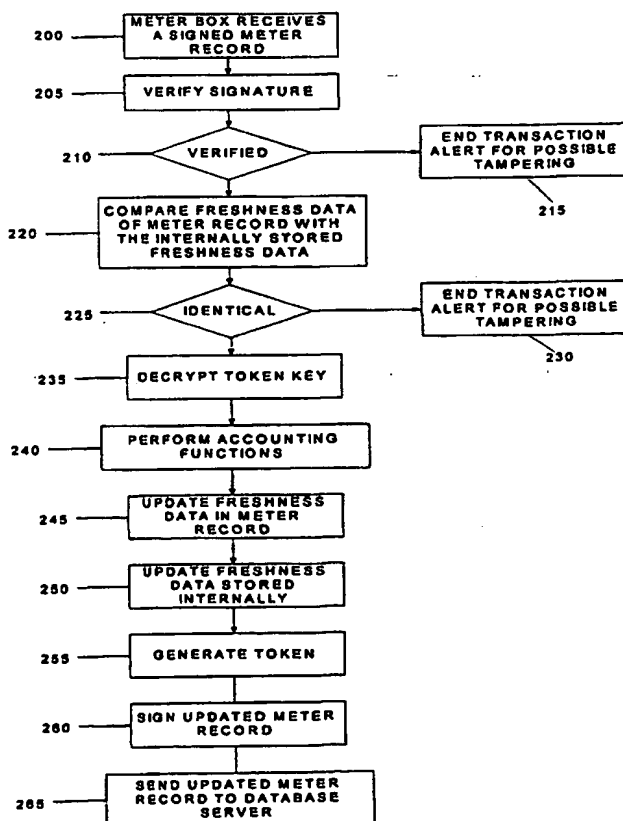
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : G07B 17/00		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/57302
			(43) International Publication Date: 17 December 1998 (17.12.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/12081 (22) International Filing Date: 12 June 1998 (12.06.98) (30) Priority Data: 60/049,518 13 June 1997 (13.06.97) US (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): PITNEY BOWES INC. [-/US]; One Elmcroft Road, Stamford, CT 06926 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): GRAVELL, Linda, V. [US/US]; 711 Beacon Park, Webster, MA 01570 (US). RILEY, David, W. [US/US]; 31 Woodland Drive, Easton, CT 06612 (US). PINTSOV, Leon, A. [US/US]; 10 Governors Row, West Hartford, CT 06117 (US). RAHRIG, John, G. [US/US]; 108 Phillips Street, Stratford, CT 06497 (US). PIERCE, Jeffrey, D. [US/US]; 4 Naples Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06855 (US). (74) Agent: MALANDRA, Charles, R., Jr.; Pitney Bowes Inc., Intellectual Property Law Dept., 35 Waterview Drive, Shelton, CT 06484 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CN, CU, CZ, EE, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RO, RU, SD, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	

(54) Title: VIRTUAL POSTAGE METERING SYSTEM

(57) Abstract

A virtual postage metering system (10) and method provides value added services corresponding to postage metering transactions. Funds are not stored at the user's site reducing the risk of unauthorized modification of account balances. There is a database record (60) of every mail piece, which means that verification will be improved since all valid mail pieces are known. Furthermore, the present invention enables the postal service to know the volume of mail to be processed prior to receipt of the physical mail pieces. Since more mailer data is available (e.g. when users usually mail, how much mail per day, average postage amount) the virtual postage metering system (10) enables the postal service to predict mail handling patterns. Finally, users have the option to pay as they go (130) which contrasts present systems in which funds must be on deposit prior to being downloaded to a meter although such downloaded funds may remain in the meter for weeks before being used.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US98/12081

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : G07B 17/00

US CL : 705/404, 410

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 340/825.35; 395/200.3, 200.33, 200.47; 705/401, 404, 410

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

None

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

None

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4,873,645 A (HUNTER ET AL) 10 OCTOBER 1989, SEE ABSTRACT.	1-8
X	US 5,233,657 A (GUNTHER) 03 AUGUST 1993, SEE ABSTRACT.	1-8
A	US 5,454,038 A (CORDERY ET AL) 26 SEPTEMBER 1995, SEE ABSTRACT.	1-8
A	US 5,602,742 A (SOLONDZ ET AL) 11 FEBRUARY 1997, SEE ABSTRACT.	1-8
A	US 5,625,694 A (LEE ET AL) 29 APRIL 1997, SEE ABSTRACT.	1-8
A, P	US 5,675,650 A (CORDERY ET AL) 07 OCTOBER 1997, SEE ABSTRACT.	1-8

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

27 SEPTEMBER 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

19 OCT 1998

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US98/12081

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A, P	US 5,682,429 A (CORDERY et al) 28 October 1997, see abstract.	1-8
A, E	US 5,781,634 A (CORDERY et al) 14 July 1998, see abstract.	1-8
A, E	US 5,796,841 A (CORDERY et al) 18 August 1998, see abstract.	1-8